

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing regarding ***Raised Senate Bill No. 1090 Session Year 2015 - AN ACT CONCERNING GAMING.***

To protect Connecticut jobs and to encourage tourism by allowing the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut to operate casinos in the state.

Introduced by: Public Safety and Security Committee

I wish to state that after doing some research online, to back up my beliefs or prove me wrong, I am convinced that more gambling is not good for our state for many reasons. All one has to do is read a few studies to see that you are trying to create a revenue source, but which, in most likelihood, will only be creating much bigger problems.

You cannot keep looking for a fix to your spending problems by creating more problems. Let's try balancing our budget and decrease some unnecessary spending instead of wasting more of our taxpayer's dollars.

I have posted links here to three articles I found on gambling and they confirm what I already thought:

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/187679.pdf>

http://www.casinowatch.org/studies_research/New%20Casinos%20Impact.pdf

This one is a great informational resource.

<http://uss-mass.org/communities.html>

Here's what I found out by reading these articles.

- Crime rates go up in some areas and down in others. I would suspect that the closer you get to the casino the higher the crime rate is as there would be more easy victims there. Crime rates further out may drop as the bad elements leave those areas to scavenge closer to the casinos.
- Small businesses lose customers and close creating less jobs.
- Divorce rates may or may not drop but suicide rates increase. Perhaps, those victims feel their families might reap insurance benefits which would not be there if they just divorced.
- Gambling addictions increase which affects families, friends and communities.
- Other tourism is hurt in areas where casinos are.
- Family time is disrupted as is money for family activities.
- Increased traffic problems.
- Increased children in schools when low wage workers are imported for jobs and their children need to be educated.
- Lottery revenues drop.
- Property values drop.
- Environmental impact problems increase.

It seems our legislators feel adding more vices to our state is a good thing. Increasing hours that package stores can remain open and allowing them to open on Sundays does nothing but increase the moral decay of an already burdened society. You are killing the small package store owners and now you want to hurt more small businesses.

Keno was introduced at the same time as the changed liquor laws. You just keep taking money out of the pockets of those who can least afford it and who may be under the influence and have no will power over their spending.

<http://ctmirror.org/2013/09/26/connecticut-bets-keno-maybe-more-slots/>

"The fact of the matter is the state of Connecticut is in the gaming industry, and we've been seeing revenues continue to drop," said Sen. Andres Ayala, D-Bridgeport, as lawmakers began their public look at video slots.

Do you maybe think revenues at the casinos we already have here might have dropped because people have no jobs?

It is my understanding that income from Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods is already down. So now you want to add more casinos because you think it will bring more people in? I think it will just mean people can gamble closer to home and you will spread the same money to a larger area.

Instead of bringing the standard of living up in the state of CT you try to find solutions to bring us down. Whatever happened to raising the bar instead of sinking to the lowest common denominator?

Perhaps you folks who think increased gambling and vices are such a great idea should stop trying to find an easy fix and start looking for ways to increase our economy by making CT a family oriented destination spot where they can find good moral values at an affordable price. Start looking for ways to increase the jobs market without paying out huge sums of money to entice companies to locate here. Try giving them good tax incentives to locate here. Better jobs means more tax dollars. I know, that might require some hard work but that's why you took the job, right? Not for an easy retirement package and benefits after your term.

Hey, the only thing I have yet to see introduced is legalized prostitution. Perhaps we should try that. It might make more customers for the medical facilities which could add people onto the ACA programs.

My final thought is that all of you voting on this issue need to watch the movie Little Nikki. Seems to me to portray the moral decay in this country pretty well.

May God bless you all with making the right decisions for our community and state rather than always looking for another badly raised dollar.

Warmest Regards,

Margaret Budny, New Hartford, CT